

THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
  
JEANNE ANG RATHER,  
  
Defendant.

CASE NO. CR21-0079-JCC  
  
ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on the parties' joint motion to proceed with a change of plea hearing by video conference (Dkt. No. 45). For the reasons explained below, the Court FINDS that further delay in the absence of a video plea hearing would seriously harm the interests of justice and GRANTS the parties' motion.

Defendant is charged with seven counts of bank fraud and three counts of identity theft. (*See* Dkt. Nos. 1, 9.) The parties indicate that they have reached an agreement and that Defendant wishes to enter a guilty plea. (Dkt. No. 45 at 1–2.) Under the Court's current general orders, felony pleas and sentencings may proceed by video or telephone conferencing if "the district judge in a particular case finds for specific reasons that the plea or sentencing in that case cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice." W.D. Wash. General Order 04-20 (March 30, 2020); *see also* W.D. Wash. General Order 14-21 (Dec. 22, 2021) (extending the duration of General Order 04-20).

1 The parties ask that the Court allow a video plea hearing in this instance for the following  
2 reasons: the parties have reached a plea agreement, and not holding the hearing by  
3 videoconference means could unnecessarily delay Defendant's plea and sentencing; in addition,  
4 not conducting the plea hearing remotely could unnecessarily jeopardize the parties' negotiated  
5 resolution and prolong the stress and anxiety arising from the current uncertainty of Defendant's  
6 situation. (*See* Dkt. No. 45 at 1–3.) Having thoroughly considered the motion and the relevant  
7 record, the Court FINDS that further delay in the absence of a remote plea hearing would  
8 seriously harm the interests of justice.

9 The Court GRANTS the parties' joint motion (Dkt. No. 45) and ORDERS that  
10 Defendant's plea hearing take place remotely via video conferencing. The parties will contact the  
11 Courtroom Deputy to schedule the hearing. The parties should contact the Courtroom Deputy 24  
12 hours before the hearing to request login or call-in information. A record of Defendant's consent  
13 to proceed via remote hearing should be made at that time.

14 DATED this 17th day of February 2022.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John C. Coughenour", written over a horizontal line.

John C. Coughenour  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE